



# Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment



## Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department

# Public Notice

A permit should be obtained from the Department of Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management prior to commencement of any development activity including constructions for Tourism, Houses, other constructions and Filling in the coastal zone of Sri Lanka under the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Act No. 57 of 1981, amended by the Act No. 64 of 1988 and No. 49 of 2011. It is to be noted that the Department of Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management has the power to remove all unauthorized temporary and permanent structures within the coastal zone under the above Act.

It is further brought to the public notice that under the above Act, the Police officers are empowered to arrest without a warrant and produce to the court any person engaged in unauthorized development activities in the Coastal Zone.

According to the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Act No. 57 of 1981, the beach is defined as a public property which belongs to the state. Any construction either permanent or temporary and maintaining structures is illegal on the beach and is completely prohibited. There are no legal provisions to issue permits for such constructions. The General public has a right to use the beach and any obstruction of this right is an offence. According to the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Act, the Department is empowered to take action to remove all the structures which have been constructed on the beach.



### Coastal Zone

“Coastal Zone” means the area,

- \* 300m landwards of the mean high water line
- \* 02 k.m seawards of the mean low water line
- \* 02 k.m. measured on a perpendicular straight base line towards the land from the entrance points of any water body thus connected to the sea and 100 m inland from the periphery of that water body.

### Possible Damages to the Coastal Zone by Unauthorized Activities

- (1) The general public cannot enjoy due to constructions on the beach.
- (2) Discharge of effluent wastewater and oil to the coast and sea by neighboring houses, tourist hotels and factories will cause
  - \* Degradation of quality of marine water
  - \* Destruction of sea weeds
  - \* Depletion of coral reefs
  - \* Destruction of marine animals
  - \* Affect the fisheries industry by destruction of fisheries resources.
- (3) Improper development activities which obstruct beach access, cause problems to general public.
- (4) Construction in the Coast results in destruction of natural beauty through destruction of vegetation in the coast and increase coastal erosion.
- (5) Destruction to the natural environment and public places in coastal area by coastal erosion which was enhanced by unauthorized constructions.
- (6) Destruction of mangrove ecosystem in lagoons and estuaries, results in.
  - \* Lowering the living standard of fisher community due to decrease of fish breeding.
  - \* Destruction of environment in Lagoon and Estuaries
  - \* Erosion of banks of Lagoons and Estuaries.
- (7) Large scale sand mining worsens coastal erosion and causes destruction of neighboring houses and property of coastal community.
- (8) Removal of limestone and coral from the coast and sea results in.
  - \* Reduction of fish breeding.
  - \* Enhance the negative impact of natural disasters such as Tsunami.
  - \* Destruction to the marine environment
- (9) Lives and Assets are damaged by the Natural disasters due to destruction of Coastal Resources



Development activities in accordance with coast conservation permits enhance the beauty of the coastal environment



Degradation of coastal environment due to unauthorized constructions without obtaining coast conservation permit.



Degradation of environment in Lagoon and Estuary due to unauthorized, and improper development activities.



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**"If we protect the coastal environment, the coastal environment will protect us"**